

file 8 Sep 71

27 Nov 70 - "In the 46 years that J. Edgar Hoover has been director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he has made little effort to disguise his independence from the sixteen Attorneys General who were technically his 'superiors.' Now Mr. Hoover has demonstrated that he can put aside the desire of a President, as well.

"Last summer, Attorney General John N. Mitchell issued an order to the heads of all units of the Justice Department, noting that Italian-Americans were offended by the use of the terms 'Mafia' and Cosa Nostra' to describe organized crime. He said that since the only reason for using these terms was 'to give gratuitous offense,' they should no longer be used in public statements by Justice Department officials. Mr. Mitchell pointedly noted that 'I have discussed this question with the President who concurs in this view.'

"The next time that Mr. Hoover gave Congressional testimony that was made public (his appearance before a Senate committee on Nov. 27) he used the term 'la Cosa Nostra' three times."

Fred P. Graham, NYTimes 26 Dec 70

27 Nov 70 - Hoover accuses Berrigans et al of plot to blow up power lines/and heating systems and kidnapping Kissinger.

(Dec 70) - "When a Republican President is less than zealous in the defense of J. Edgar Hoover against his leading Democratic challenger [Muskie], it can be fairly deduced that the nation's legendary top cop is in trouble. Mr. Nixon avoided a full embrace of Mr. Hoover as long ago as last December. Asked about the director's charges against the Berrigans, the President said that he would not comment on the case, paid tribute to Mr. Hoover's great service over the years and said cautiously that he approved 'generally' of his actions."

Max Frankel, NYTimes 16 Apr 71

15 Apr 71 - "Mr. Ziegler went to some length to differentiate between Administration policy on surveillance and F.B.I. activities, of which he claimed ignorance. He defended the agency vigorously for its law enforcement record over the years but did not mention Mr. Hoover."

Warren Weaver Jr., NYTimes 16 Apr 71

also John W. Finney, NYTimes 15 Apr 71,
filed Surveillance

18 Apr 71 - "In the meanwhile, President Nixon stayed out of the fray for 10 days after Mr. Boggs made his charges [5 Apr 71], and when he did speak out directly he refused to say how long he intended to keep Mr. Hoover in his post. [Do not have in file.]

"The widely accepted view here is that the White House now finds Mr. Hoover an embarrassment and would in fact love to edge him out of his job if it could do so gracefully."

Robert M. Smith, NYTimes 19 Apr 71